THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The requisite information is as under:

Year	Number of Police Personnel	
	Killed (on duty)	Injured (on duty)
1994	16	212
1995	7	264
1996	10	174

(b) The following pensionary and other monetary benefits are allowed in such cases:—

(1) Liberalised Pensionary Award equal to Last Pay Drawn

or

Extraordinary Pension at the rate of 60% of Basic Pay subject to minimum of Rs. 750 per month and maximum of Rs. 2500 per month.

(2) Payment of Death-Cum-Retirement Gratuity and benefits admissible under Group Insurance Scheme.

(3) Appointment of the ward/family member of the deceased on compassionate ground; and

(4) Grant of ex-gratia payment as per Government of NCT of Delhi's instructions on the subject.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Procurement of Rice in Andhra Pradesh

3264. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to procure another 10 lakh tonnes of rice from the State through FCI in June, 1997;

(b the extent to which this procurement will help the Union Government in storing the rice during the current season;

(c) the total rice procured by the Food Corporation of India from the State uptil now and the extent to which it is more in comparison to the previous years; and

(d) whether it is the highest target achieved by the FCI in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The procurement of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) in Andhra Pradesh since 1993-94 is as under:

(Lakh Tonnes)

Marketing Season	Qty. of Rice procured
1993-94	39.87
1994-95	40.24
1995-96	36.82
1996-97	44.64 (as on 4.8.97)

(d) Procurement of 44.64 lakh tonnes of rice in the current kharif marketing season, 1996-97 (upto 4.8.97) is the highest in the State.

Production of the Paddy/Rice in A.P

3265. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the paddy output turned out to be very high this year in the State of Andhra Pradesh due to good monsoon;

(b) if so, whether the production is good but the prices have not come down particularly in the Krishna District;

(c) if so, whether the Food Corporation of India procures 4.37 lakh tonnes of rice every year from the Krishna district;

(d) if so, whether Food Corporation of India has purchased 75 per cent of the target during the Kharif season while 25 per cent in the Rabi season;

(e) if so, the total production of rice in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the current Kharif season; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to procure the surplus rice from the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The production of rice in Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97 was 99.01 lakh tonnes, higher by 7.7 per cent over the production level of 91.95 lakh tonnes achieved in 1995-96.

(b) As per the available information, the month end wholesale prices of rice (coarse) in Vijayawada centre of Krishna District in Andhra Pradesh during November & December 1996 and January 1997 are reported to be higher than the prices prevailing during the corresponding period of 1995-96.

(c) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has procured 4.36, 3.58 and 4.35 lakh tonnes of rice during 1994-95 & 1995-96 crop years (First October to 30th September) and 1996-97 (First October to 7th August) respectively in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) The procurement of rice in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh during kharif and rabi seasons were 61.57 and 38.43 percent respectively of total procurement made by FCI during the crop year 1996-97 (up to 7th August, 1997).

(e) It is too early to assess the production prospects of rice during the current kharif season 1997-98 in Andhra Pradesh.

(f) FCI has procured 44.60 lakh tonnes of rice in Andhra Pradesh over and above the target of 42 lakh tonnes by suitably planning the procurement, storage and movement during crop year 1996-97 (up to 7th August, 1997). This strategy would also be continued to procure the surplus rice from the State of Andhra Pradesh during 1997-98.

Demand and Supply of Fertilizer in Kerala

3266. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidised fertilizers demanded and supplied to Kerala during each of last three years;

(b) the reasons for the short supply; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the required supply to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under statutory price control. The table below gives the assessed demand, availability and consumption of urea in Kerala during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97:

(Lakh tonnes)

	Assessed demand	Availability*	Consumption
1994-95	1.21	1.21	1.07
1995-96	1.26	1.47	1.21
1996-97	1.33	1.47	1.21 (Estimated)

*Excluding stock with State Institutional agencies.

The availability of urea in Kerala during the last three years was adequate and there was no short supply.

[Translation]

Procurement Price of Wheat

3267. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wheat procurement price has been fixed at Rs. 475 per quintal;

(b) if so, whether the decision of the Government to import wheat at a higher rate than the procurement price caused resentment among the farmers and the farmers of Punjab refused to sell wheat to the Food Corporation of India as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to obviate such crisis and save the farmers from exploitation; and

(d) the measures taken to tackle the problem arising out of hoarding of wheat by the traders and controlling the prices of wheat in the open market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (c) The Government fixed the minimum support price of wheat for 1996-97 crop to be marketed in 1997-98 season at Rs. 415 per quintal, marking an increase of Rs. 35 over the MSP fixed for the previous season. The Government after taking into account the requests received from the State Governments of the Punjab and Haryana for further hike in the MSP, decided to grant a Central bonus of Rs. 60 per quintal for the sale of wheat to the Central pool w.e.f. 1.4.97 to 30.6.97. The hike in